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Sanitary report from Rio de Janeiro.

[Sanitary report from Rio de Janeiro, from Pernambuco during 1897, and from Bahia during the first half-year 1898.]

RIO DE JANEIRO, *April 27, 1899.*

SIR : I have the honor to transmit to you the official report for the week ended April 14.

There were 319 deaths from all causes, a decrease of 17 as compared with the foregoing week ; 20 deaths from *accessio pernicioso*, an increase of 4 ; 26 deaths from yellow fever, an increase of 4 ; 9 deaths from smallpox, an increase of 4 ; 2 deaths from typhoid fever, a decrease of 5 ; 2 deaths from diphtheria, none before ; no death from measles, 1 before ; 3 deaths from beriberi, a decrease of 3, and 51 deaths from tuberculosis, a decrease of 5.

Information.—On the present occasion I am able to send you official statistical information in regard to health reports at Pernambuco for the whole year of 1897, and at Bahia for the first half of 1898. I have made arrangements that I hope will enable me in future to report on sanitary matters in Pernambuco, Bahia, Rio de Janeiro, and the State of Sao Paulo. I will see whether it is possible to obtain also from Rio Grande do Sul medical and statistical information. This, however, is a little doubtful, because medical papers published in that State have always had only a very short existence. You will thus receive from me information concerning sanitary matters in the most important sea-ports of Brazil which are in connection with the United States and Europe. We generally find in those cities the principal diseases of the interior connected with the interest of public health.

The population of the city of Pernambuco may be estimated for the year 1896 at 184,000 inhabitants, and for 1897 at 190,000. During the year 1896 there died 7,765 persons, and during 1897 5,264, that is, a mortality of 42.2 per cent against 27.7 per cent. Of the deceased 2,660 were males, 2,233 females, and 371 stillbirths. According to nationality there were, Brazilians, 4,692 ; Portuguese, 110 ; Spaniards, 8 ; French, 4 ; British, 6 ; Germans, 4 ; Italians, 14 ; other Europeans, 5 ; Americans, 3 ; Spanish Americans, 2 ; Asiatics, 4 ; Africans, 41.

The great mortality in 1896 was caused by smallpox, which caused 2,119 deaths ; 368 persons died of that disease in 1897.

During 1896, 40 persons died from yellow fever, and during 1897, 8 persons died.

In regard to other diseases there were 21 deaths from typhoid fever, 14 deaths from measles, 16 deaths from whooping cough, 1 death from diphtheria, 1 death from scurvy, 13 deaths from influenza, 10 deaths from beriberi, 1 death from hydrophobia, 3 deaths from leprosy, 239 deaths from *febris remittens* and *intermittens*, 141 deaths from *accessio pernicioso*, 34 deaths from *cachexia palustris*, 718 deaths from tuberculosis, and 55 deaths from syphilis.

From diseases of the nervous system there died 792 persons, of whom 131 were from *cephalæmia* and *apoplexy*, 30 from *epilepsy*, 450 children from convulsions, and 49 persons from *tetanus*. From diseases of the organs of circulation there were 280 deaths, especially of the heart, 194 ; from the organs of respiration 340 deaths, from diseases of the digestive organs 658 deaths, from the genito-urinal organs and its annexa 112 deaths, of which 92 deaths were from nephritis and Bright's disease. From puerperal affections there died 40 women, from skin dis-

ease 57 persons. Decrepitude was considered as the cause of death in 71 instances.

The number of births was 3,378 (excluding 371 stillbirths), of which 2,087 were legitimate and 1,291 illegitimate.

Of new-born children there died 308, and of these deaths 124 were caused by innate debility, and 160 by trismus nascentium.

During the first half-year of 1898 there died at Bahia, 2,311 persons—1,253 males and 1,058 females. According to nationality, the deceased were classified as follows: Brazilians, 2,107; Portuguese, 47; Spaniards, 19; British, 3; Italians, 7; French, 3; Grecian, 1; Germans, 8; American, 1; Arabian, 1; Africans, 109; unknown nationality, 5. The population of Bahia, being estimated at 200,000, the mortality amounts to 23.1 per cent.

Of yellow fever there were 67 cases, of which 45 were fatal; the mortality, therefore, was 67.16 per cent. The cases are divided for January, 5; for February, 2; for March, 12; for April, 13; for May, 20, and for June, 15. By this disease the following persons were attacked: 5 Brazilians, 1 Argentine, 1 American, 25 Portuguese, 11 Spaniards, 10 Italians, 2 British, 1 Austrian, 1 Swiss, 1 Belgian, 8 Germans, and 1 Russian.

Of smallpox there were 677 cases—180 during January, 121 during February, 218 during March, 74 during April, 58 during May, and 26 during June, of which 150 were fatal. Of the patients, 82 had been vaccinated, 589 not vaccinated, and in 6 cases it was unknown whether they had been vaccinated or not.

The number of deaths from typhoid fever was 31; from whooping cough, 10; from scurvy, 2; from beriberi, 42; from malarious infection, 213; from tuberculosis, 321; from diseases of the digestive tube, 338; from diseases of the organs of circulation, 137; of nervous system, 198; of the respiratory system, 119; from diseases of the genito-urinal organs and its annexa, 78.

During the first half-year there were 686 births—347 males and 339 females, and 73 stillbirths; of the living born children there were 380 legitimate, 303 illegitimate, and 3 foundlings. It may be mentioned that from tetanus infantile there died 84 children.

At the leprosy hospital there were 21 patients, of whom 4 died.

During the six months there were 3,709 vaccinations with result in 1,419 cases; without result, 1,486 cases, and in 804 cases no report was made.

I am able to give you the following meteorological particulars: Average atmospherical pressure observed, 759.35; average atmospherical pressure reduced to 0°, 756.24; average maximum temperature, 28.83; average minimum temperature, 23.96; comparative humidity, 76.68; rainfall, 178.50; fog, 3.64; prevailing winds, N., NE., EN., W.

Since last report the following-named ships have been inspected and received bills of health of this office: April 24, steamship *Lassell*, British, for United States via Pernambuco; bark *Visurgis*, German, for Pensacola. April 25, bark *Arizona*, British, for Ship Island. April 26, steamship *Biela*, British, for New York.

Respectfully, yours,

W. HAVELBURG, M. D.,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.